

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The fixing device as set forth in claim ~~[[2]]~~13, wherein said bias voltage applying means applies as the bias voltage a voltage, having a same polarity as the reverse polarity developer, to the pressure member.

5. (Currently Amended) The fixing device as set forth in claim ~~[[3 or]]~~4, wherein a time it takes for a potential to decay is 0.2 second or longer, the potential being produced by the bias voltage on a surface of a member to which the bias voltage is applied.

6. (Currently Amended) The fixing device as set forth in claim ~~[[3 or]]~~4, wherein an absolute value of a current is 0.05 μA or more and 150 μA or less, the current flowing when the bias voltage is applied and flowing in a member to which the bias voltage is applied.

Claims 7-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The fixing device as set forth in claim ~~[[10]]~~13, wherein:
the surface resistive layer of the pressure member has a surface resistivity of $10^7 \Omega$ or higher; and
said bias voltage applying means applies the bias voltage to the pressure member.

12. (Currently Amended) The fixing device as set forth in claim ~~[[10]]~~13, wherein:
the surface resistive layer of the pressure member has a volume resistivity of $10^5 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ or higher; and
said bias voltage applying means applies the bias voltage to the pressure member.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The fixing device as set forth in claim 10~~ A fixing device comprising:

a fixing member which is in contact with an unfixed image formed on a printing medium with a developer; and

a pressure member which is in contact with the fixing member,

the fixing member and the pressure member sandwiching the printing medium so as to feed the printing medium, so that the unfixed image on the printing medium is fixed on the printing medium,

the fixing device further comprising holding electric field generating means for generating a holding electric field which is an electric field in a direction for holding a reverse polarity developer on the printing medium, the reverse polarity developer having a polarity opposite to a polarity of the developer which forms an image on the printing medium,

wherein said holding electric field generating means includes bias voltage applying means for applying a bias voltage, which generates the holding electric field, to at least one of the fixing member and the pressure member,

wherein:

the pressure member includes a conductive core bar, an insulating elastic layer on the conductive core bar, an intermediate layer on the insulating elastic layer, and a surface resistive layer on the intermediate layer;

a potential given member is provided on a surface of the pressure member;

said bias voltage applying means applies the bias voltage to the potential given member;

and

the bias voltage is applied through the potential given member to a surface of the pressure member or near the surface of the pressure member,

wherein:

the fixing member includes first heating means for heating a surface of the fixing member; and

the potential given member also functions as a heating member for heating the surface of the pressure member.

Claims 14-16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) The fixing device as set forth in claim ~~[[10]]~~13, further comprising at least one temperature detecting element which detects surface temperatures of the fixing member, the pressure member, and the heating member, the temperature detecting element including an insulating film layer and a heat-resistant release layer on a heat-receiving surface of the temperature detecting element and a protective layer on a surface opposite to the heat-receiving surface.

18. (Original) The fixing device as set forth in claim 17, wherein the insulating film layer, the heat-resistant release layer, and the protective layer of the temperature detecting element are extended to a housing of the temperature detecting element so as to cover an elastic member of the temperature detecting element.

Claims 19-22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) A fixing device comprising:
a fixing member which is in contact with an unfixed image formed on a printing medium with a developer; and
a pressure member which is in contact with the fixing member,
the fixing member and the pressure member sandwiching the printing medium so as to feed the printing medium, so that the unfixed image on the printing medium is fixed on the printing medium,
the fixing device further comprising holding electric field generating means for generating a holding electric field which is an electric field in a direction for holding a reverse polarity developer on the printing medium, the reverse polarity developer having a polarity opposite to a polarity of the developer on a back surface of the printing medium which forms an image on the printing medium,

said holding electric field generating means including bias voltage applying means for applying a bias voltage, which generates said holding electric field, to at least one of said fixing member and said pressure member,

said fixing member including heating means for heating a surface of the fixing member, the fixing device further comprising:

a ball bearing which is fixed to said fixing member, the ball bearing being supported by a frame via a bearing holder made of material having thermal plasticity; and
a thermostat which cuts off power distribution to said heating means in response to an excessive temperature rise of said fixing member, the thermostat being provided on said frame so that, in case abnormal overheating occurs, the bearing holder is deformed and melted as a result of its receiving (i) heat of the abnormal overheating, and (ii) pressure load of the fixing member and the pressure member, the deformation and melting of the bearing holder resulting in narrowing a gap between the thermostat and the fixing member.

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